

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FHB(FE)208

(Question Serial No. 1137)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified
Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

In 2019-20, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will continue the comprehensive review on public markets. Please provide in detail the indicators of the work, the schedule, the staff establishment involved (please set out in tabular form the number of staff with a breakdown by post) and the estimated expenditure.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) is conducting a comprehensive review of its existing public markets and will formulate specific improvement measures for both their facilities and management in a systematic manner.

In November 2018, we reported to the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Public Markets under the Legislative Council Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene that the management reform of public markets would be conducted on the following principles –

- (a) public markets should principally be operating on a commercial basis allowing market forces to play in full swing;
- (b) individual stalls should be allowed to compete on a level-playing field; and
- (c) public markets as municipal infrastructure should ultimately serve the public interest benefitting the community at large.

We also set out our initial directions on the various aspects of the new operation mode, including rental policy, rental adjustment mechanism, cost recovery, tenancy renewal, trade mix and daily management. We are proceeding with the review and will come up with initial views on the management measures that would serve the best overall interest of the community. We will also look into ways to enhance the functions of the Market Management Consultative Committees.

The Department has set up a dedicated team to take forward, among other duties, the comprehensive review on public markets. The estimated number of staff involved in 2019-20 is 37, including 4 Administrative Officer Grade posts, 13 Health Inspector Grade posts, 2 Executive Officer Grade posts, 3 Clerical Officer Grade posts, 2 Personal Secretary Grade posts and 13 contract staff. The estimated expenditure to be incurred in 2019-20 is \$33.9 million.

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